

Guardian

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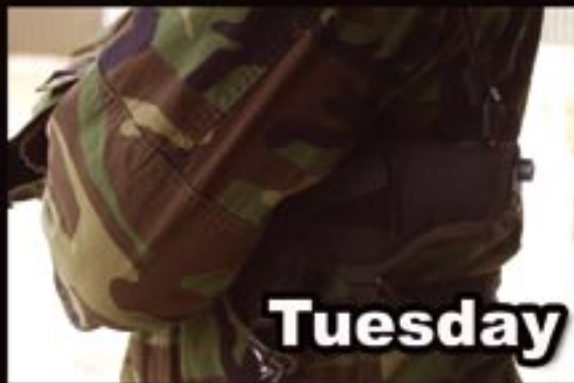
HELLENIC INDEPENDENCE DAY

506th

Task Force Dragoon patrols



Monday



Tuesday



Thursday



Wednesday



Friday



Saturday



Sunday

**Weapons violations can
occur everyday, *SAFETY FIRST.***

This message brought to you by Task Force Falcon Command Information

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PHOTO BY SPC. LYNETTE HOKE



PHOTO BY SPC. LYNETTE HOKE

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On the Cover:

COVER PHOTO BY SPC. ALICIA DILL

During the parade portion of the Hellenic Independence Day celebration, Soldiers with the 506th Mechanized Battalion ride through on M11-3 Armored Personnel Carriers.

Discipline, key to success

by Staff Sgt. Jason Eaves

As leaders, it is up to us to enforce the standards that have been put in front of us, no matter how hard they might seem. There were times as a private or specialist when I couldn't understand why we were doing something a particular way. Now that I am in a leadership position, I realize information not only flows up and down, but side-to-side as well.

The most important information flow is lateral, between peers. Most Soldiers are rather good about talking to each other, but hardly ever about pertinent information. My fellow squad leaders and I often talk about missions or information our leaders have put out. I have made it a point to disseminate information as quickly as I can.

However, the troops under me can't just sit in their rooms and wait for me to give them info. They can cross-talk the information given to them. That way, they are all on the same sheet of music. I still try and do my best to present the info at one time to the squad.

Many times I have heard Soldiers talking about how their leadership has failed them or let them down. The real question should be, how many times have you let your leadership down? It could be as easy as not trying to lose weight or intentionally not packing the required equipment for a mission.

No one is going to succeed every time, but we should understand that most of the time when we feel the leadership failed us, we have failed them. We can look back to lessons learned by previous leaders and see no great leader had it all or got everything they wanted. In fact, there are many bad leaders who have had great success.

I see myself as trying to do the best I can with the tools at hand. I have good troops under me who work hard every day. All I have to do is keep them abreast of the current situation and guide them when needed. These are not the only things a squad leader must-do, but some

of the basic and most often over-looked. I still must take the responsibility for the failures we endure and share in our glory when the squad succeeds.

By no means am I the best squad leader in the task force, but I try and watch how the other squad leaders run their squad and learn from that. Each person has something to offer for us to learn from, even if all we learn is what not to do or how not to lead. Remember how you were treated coming up through the ranks and try and emulate the good and learn from the bad.

In closing I find myself thinking of Gen. George S. Patton when he said "You cannot be disciplined in great things and undisciplined in small things. There is only one sort of discipline- perfect discipline."

This holds true no matter if you are the leader or the led. Trust in your leadership and demand the best from them and they in turn should demand the best from you. Hold each other accountable for information flow and their actions, both positive and negative.

Each and every day I grow towards becoming a better leader, and each day I expect my Soldiers to give me their best and grow with me.



Staff Sgt. Jason E. Eaves,
Task Force Tornado, "Will to Win"
Company B, 1-635th, Armor

Guardian

Produced for Personnel of KFOR Multinational Brigade (East)

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Quicktime

Most Individual Ready Reservists reporting as ordered

The Pentagon has released statistics disproving rumors saying thousands of reservists called up for active duty are refusing to report for their duty.

Lt. Gen. Franklin L. Hagenbeck, the Army's top personnel officer, told reporters April 7 that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld provided the Army authority to involuntary mobilize up to 6,500 Individual Ready Reservists (IRR) at any one time to assist military manpower needs in the war against terrorism.

The IRR consists of former active duty or reserve troops with time remaining on their eight-year military

service obligation who are no longer serving in an active or reserve unit. Hagenbeck said about 3,900 IRR members with high-demand specialties have been selected for active duty.

Contrary to some media reports, most of these troops are reporting in as ordered, Hagenbeck noted.

Fifty percent of selected IRR members have already reported for duty and are "moving out on assignment," Hagenbeck said. Others have asked for a delay or deferment of duty, he said, noting those requests "are being processed out individually."

About 546 selected IRR members haven't reported as of March

27, according to Army documents. The Army, Hagenbeck noted, is considering "all the possibilities" in dealing with IRR members who've not reported in.

Brig. Gen. Sean Byrne, the Army's director of personnel management who accompanied Hagenbeck at the briefing, noted there's a major initiative ongoing to transform how the IRR is managed.

As part of that initiative, Byrne said, the Army plans to track down IRR members who haven't reported for duty. "It's probably going to take us awhile to do it, but we are actively moving out on it," he said. ■

DoD working to improve competence in world languages

The Defense Department is working to improve capacity and competence in world languages and culture, a top official said April 7.

While the U.S. military always has had personnel with basic competence in foreign languages, there is a greater need for these skills in the post-Sept. 11 world, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness David S.C. Chu told reporters in his Pentagon office.

"In today's world," Chu said, "we need people with a higher level of linguistic competence. On a scale of one to five, with five being the highest, the typical level of competence during the Cold War was about two. What that meant in practical terms was an ability to read well-organized materials and speak in standard dialects.

"In this era of global terrorism, that's not good enough," he added. "We need more people in the civilian and military ranks with a capacity in one or more of the 'investment' languages, such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Arabic (and) Farsi."

Chu said proficiency must go

beyond standard speaking and reading skills to include competence in the various dialects of a language, slang, and an ability to write. "(Military linguists) must be able to understand people speaking in nuanced terms or alluding to current or historical events in a culture," he said.

"People working in the field must also be able to understand the political environment and the leaders working in that environment. So both linguistic and cultural competency must be at a higher level. We need greater depth," he said.

Chu said the Defense Transformation Language Roadmap, which predates the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, reflects a long-standing priority of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and is designed to accomplish three major goals:

Create a foundation of linguistic and cultural expertise within the civilian, officer and enlisted ranks of both active and reserve forces;

Create the capacity to surge beyond in-house capabilities when necessary; and

Establish a cadre of foreign language specialists with advanced levels of proficiency.

The roadmap outlines several ways to accomplish these goals, Chu said. For example, one way to help build a foundation of expertise is to strengthen the skills of personnel who currently have some language proficiency. Another possibility is to "raise the starting point" by building language requirements into the curriculums of the service academies, requiring junior officers to complete language training, expanding programs for studying abroad, and making foreign language ability a criterion for general and flag-officer advancement, he said.

Chu said DoD is also working with other government departments and agencies to "lift national competence" through early or university education. While many countries view the study of other languages as preparation for adult life, foreign-language competency is not a requirement for most U.S. schools and universities, he said.

Continued on page 23

Hellenic Independence Day



Saluting the distinguished visitors and his command, this 506th Hellenic Soldier participates in the Pass and Review portion of the celebration.

March 25th is the Hellenic Independence Day," said Maj. Ioannis Kouridakis, Deputy Commander, 506th Hellenic (Greece) Mechanized Battalion, Multinational Brigade (East). "It is a day of celebration and honor because on that very day in the year 1821, our nation found the strength and dared to rise up against the Ottoman Empire, who had invaded and occupied its land, brutally torturing countless innocents for nearly 400 years."

The celebration of Hellenic independence in Kosovo for the nearly 300 Hellas Soldiers, while in Kosovo, was not just a family affair at Camp Rigas Fereos, as the invitation for the ceremony and reception was extended to many of the international partners of KFOR.

The command considers it a great honor to have its international KFOR partners attend such festivities that have a national character, said Kouridakis.

"With such a gesture, we allow these guests to witness the celebrations of our

most sacred events; we accept them as one of our own," said Kouridakis.

During this special day, the sequence of events included a wreath-laying, a celebratory speech, decorations of the 506th Mechanical Battalion with North Atlantic Treaty Organization medals, a military parade and finally a reception.

For an event like the Hellenic Independence Day to be successful, much preparation is needed. In order to be ready for the big day, many Soldiers get involved.

"We wanted everything to touch perfection," he said. "The troops practiced their parading skills and the camp personnel took special care to organize and prepare every area of the camp.

"It is usually a tiring and time-consuming task, but we do it with a smile on our face and a sense of honor that helps us overcome any difficulties we encounter," said Kouridakis. "Thus, the preparations took only a few days to reach completion.

"I do not think anything was missing from the celebration," he said. "It was very well organized and performed, and it gave us all a great sense of honor."

Even though the celebration was a success, there are some differences for the Hellenic Soldiers from celebrations in Hellas.

"Usually, in Greece during similar festivities, there is a difference, mostly in size, more dignitaries and honored guests are present," he said.

"Most important of all is that back home all our families and loved ones are present, to watch us parade proudly in front of our flag," said Kouridakis.

While this is a different environment from the celebration in Greece, the history of their independence is still relevant to their mission in Kosovo.

"Celebrating such an event while in deployment in a peace-support operation is something special because we feel that we continue somehow 'fighting for peace,'" said Kouridakis. ■



One of the most important aspects about the day is why it is celebrated. All the guests received a brief history during the speech which explained why this day is so important to the Hellenic people. By understanding this history it will make you appreciate other countries' fight for independence.



Left photo, the guide-on bearer displays the colors of the Hellenic flag during a pass and review at Camp Rigas Fereos. Right photo, A Hellenic Soldier performs the traditional dance, "Zibekiko", with one man dancing in the middle while others form a circle and clap through the performance. Many people can take turns being in the middle throughout the dance. This is one of the many dances that was displayed at the reception.

"E-lef-the-ri-a-i Tha-na-tos"

By Maj. Ioannis Kouridakis

Everything started on May 29, 1453 when Constantinople, after a proud and defiant resistance led by Constantinos Paleologos, yielded under the Ottoman's siege. It was the last line of defense and after the fall of the city, the Byzantine Empire crumbled and Hellas (Greece) was enslaved.

For nearly 400 years, the Hellenic population suffered. They had no rights, no education, no religion, no future and existed just to serve their tyrants. It was not just a coincidence that such an event occurred at this very

date. March 25th is also the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, which inspired thousands of Greeks to fight fearlessly with sacred fury and turn their dream for freedom into solid reality.

Declaring as the Nation's capital, the recently-liberated city of Kalamata (liberated March 23, 1821) the sacred fight began. It was one of the bloodiest wars for independence of all times. The Hellenic cry that erupted from our people's throats in a thunderous roar was "Freedom or death!"

On March 25, 1821, Paleon Patron

Germanos, raised in the St. Lauras Monastery, in the city of Patras, the Revolution Flag, which featured the image of the Virgin Mary. The colors and final features of our flag were determined in the first official National Gathering that took place in the city of Epidaurous, on Jan. 1, 1822.

The white cross symbolizes our religion and the number of stripes (nine) symbolizes the sacred meaning that freedom has for our people, each stripe standing for a syllable in the phrase "E-lef-the-ri-a-i Tha-na-tos" meaning "Freedom or Death."



A Polish reflection

One of the greatest Poles has gone away, when Pope John Paul II died April 2, 2005. He was the head of the Catholic Church and the moral authority for many people of different creeds, religions and cultures.

Karol Jozef Wojtyla was born in Wadowice, brought up and went to school in Poland and never forgot about his place of birth. After his election to Pope Oct. 16, 1978, he became Pope John Paul II and visited Poland eight times, the most times of any country.

His meetings with people numbered in the millions. During his pontificate, our country changed completely. Pope John Paul II got Poles the experience of individual dignity and collective power. Thanks to his strength and obstinacy for telling the truth, he looked into the events of Poland, which helped cause the downfall of the Communist system in Middle and Eastern Europe.

Many commentators and journalists knew him as John Paul the Great – the Pope who stopped the expansion of Communism. That description does not go overboard, since witnesses like Ronald Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev and Helmut Kohl, confirmed that for all the people in the world. The “Pope from Poland” had the biggest influence in overcoming communism on the global scale.

John Paul II was the first Pope who visited so many places – approximately 132 countries. He was a real traveler, spending about 586 days in journeys. During his visits abroad, he has traveled 1,167,000 kilometers (725,000 miles), or roughly three times the distance from the Earth to the Moon.

For us, he said, “Soldiers are

the servants of safety, security and freedom of the nation.” He always argued that, “No war is good and fair.” He condemned even diminutive signs of discrimination. He tried to join and unify people, nations and religions.

For my countrymen, the Poles, Pope John Paul II was and is, the most significant person in all of the history of Poland. During one of his visits to Poland, he gave us these words:

“I am giving you all the fruits of my life and duty back,

I am donating to you, the fate of the Church,

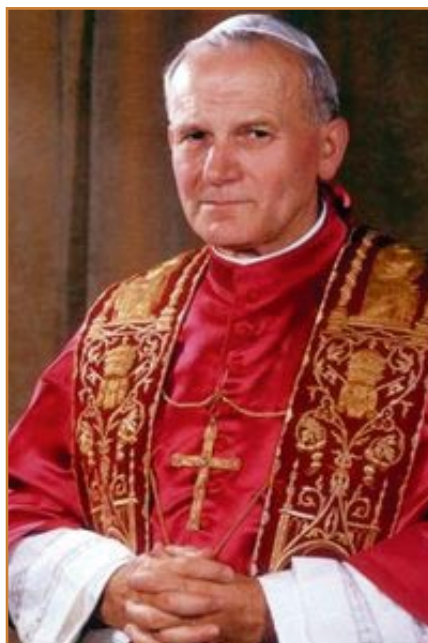
I am recommending my nation,

I trust you and once again I am declaring you

Totus Tuus, Maria!

Tous Tuus,
Amen.”

And therefore for us, John Paul the Great has not gone away. He is and will be forever.



Papal Facts

- Born May 18, 1920 in Wadowice, Poland.
- Died April 2, 2005, Apostolic Palace, Vatican City.
- At 58, was the youngest pope elected since Pope Pius IX in 1846
- Served the third longest papacy, following Saint Peter and Pope Pius IX.
- The first non-Italian to serve in office since the Dutch-German Pope Adrian VI assumed the papacy in 1522.
- Known as the “Pilgrim Pope,” for having travelled greater distances than all his predecessors combined.
- John Paul II’s apostolical motto was Totus Tuus (“all yours”) – He borrowed the motto from the Marian consecrating prayer of St Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort.
- Since his death, a number of clergy at the Vatican have referred to the late pontiff as “John Paul the Great” -- only the third pope to be so acclaimed, and the first since the first millennium.
- John Paul II has presided at 147 beatification ceremonies (1,338 Blesseds proclaimed) and 51 canonization ceremonies (482 Saints) during his pontificate. He has held 9 consistories in which he created 231 (+ 1 in pectore) cardinals. He has also convened six plenary meetings of the College of Cardinals .
- The John Paul II International Airport, in Balice, Poland, is named in his honor.

What makes the Army: Soldiers



PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. ADAM ERWAY

On his third deployment in the military, Sgt. Adam Erway brings experience and leadership skills to the mission here in Kosovo. A former Marine and father of two children, this military police officer has his sights set on a career in law enforcement.

Keeping up on his marksmanship skills, Sgt. Adam Erway fires a 12-gauge shotgun at a range at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Why did you join the military?

I joined the military shortly after high school. I wanted more of a physical challenge than college could give me so I joined the U.S. Marine Corps in February 1999 and worked as an anti-tank assault gunner. I joined the Army as a Military Police Officer because I wanted a more hands-on experience than college could give me. I thought I could get more tactical training in the military than I could in civilian schools for law enforcement. Also, joining the military is something that is a family tradition. After four and a half years and one com-

bat tour in Iraq, I returned to California in June 2003 to start processing into Federal Law Enforcement. During this time, I met my wife, Carissa, and decided to change my path just a little. I got married and now have a 10-month-old baby girl and a three-year-old stepson. After being away from the active duty ranks for a couple months, my wife and I decided to go back to the active-duty lifestyle.

Why did you join the California National Guard instead of the active Army?

I was determined to be a Military

Police Officer and the active duty Army just couldn't help me so I joined the California National Guard in March 2004. I was still awaiting active duty orders when the KFOR mission came about and after discussing the future opportunities with my wife, we decided to turn down the orders for active duty and tough it out for 18 months with the Kosovo mission so I volunteered to extend and go.

How has the California National Guard helped with your future goals?

Active-duty wouldn't take me as a MP and I wanted to keep my Military



PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. ADAM ERWAY

Sgt. Adam Erway, 40th Military Police Company poses with his kids, Connor, 3 years-old and MacKenna 10-months-old before deploying to Kosovo.

Occupational Speciality as a tanker. Basically, my MP Active Duty experience helps me meet the requirements to be a federal agent.

Is this your first deployment?

No, this is my third deployment. With the Marines I was deployed to several Asian countries and I spent six months in Iraq with the 1st Marine Division.

What did you learn from your previous deployments that will benefit you here?

I spent 4 years training in the Marines and going to Iraq was a true test of the training and made it a reality. It also gave me an insight to the future because I know how I react in worst-case scenarios. As a Non-commissioned Officer, I can focus on my troops during these situations instead

Full Name: Adam Erway
DOB: Nov. 16, 1979
MOS: 31B
Hobbies: Martial arts, sports, bullriding, family
Hometown: Middleville, Mich.
Unit: 40th Military Police Company
Rank: Sergeant

of worrying about what is happening around us.

How has the military helped you as a person?

While in the Marines, we worked with local youth organizations in Southern California setting up boot camp-like activities. As a father, it has given me a chance to see what my

kids could grow up like if I wasn't around and makes me not take for granted what I have. Being an MP carries a lot of authority and instills maturity as well as military bearing and discipline. It is also helping me reach my goals to become a federal agent.

Anything you would like to add?

In October 2004, I left my new bride and two children, Connor and MacKenna. Yet, everyday

I keep in mind that my goals are well set and they are to continue serving my country as a federal agent and to provide a healthy and prosperous life for my wife and kids. I take great pride in what I do as a United States Servicemember and would not trade any of it for the world.

Task Force Dragoon **PATROL**

Story and Photos by Spc. Lynette Hoke

The pearly-blue sky and bright sunny day made the current patrol a treat compared to the chilly wind and occasional snowflakes experienced weeks before. Walking through a village, military police ask random people, including business owners, to answer brief questions on their perception of the security and safety that Kosovo Forces (KFOR) provides.

Approaching the village petrol station, Sgt. Shawn Johnson, the squad leader, instructed the Albanian interpreter, Milosav Krstevshi, to ask a man pumping fuel if he is, "Having a good day."

"Miredita, si jeni, a jeni mire," the interpreter said to the patron in Albanian with a casual conversational tone. The man, standing about six feet tall, with slicked back dark brown hair, is not dressed much different from the business casual attire seen from men of the same age just up the road. He watches the language exchange from the sergeant to the interpreter and back again.

Finally, with a half smile, the man extends his hand and says in almost perfect English, with a slight Southern dialect, "How are you doing? I am from Texas visiting my parents." The squad sergeant chuckles and extends his hand to return the handshake.

This unexpected meeting is a welcomed break in the common story of public interaction for the 40th Military Police Company of Task Force Dragoon from Calif. The five members of 2nd platoon, 3rd Squad form a genuine bond as they all share the duty of providing a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo.

The citizen Soldiers of 40th Military Police Company, 2nd platoon, 3rd squad, is made of people with all types of backgrounds. Some of the troops come from a law enforcement background while others are from prior deployments such as Iraq.

After checking the Texas man's identification and wishing him a good visit and safe trip back to the United States, the squad left to finish their patrol and mission for the afternoon.

Continued on page 23





Large spread photo, Sgt. Nancy Weber from Task Force Dragoon, 40th Military Police Company, located on Camp Bondsteel takes one last glance at the village in a valley during a stop on a patrol.

Left photo, Sgt. Shawn Johnson, 2nd Lt. Sunny Griffith and Sgt. Nancy Weber all from Task Force Dragoon 40th Military Police Company on Camp Bondsteel stop during a patrol on a large overlook to take notice of the land terrain and building conditions near adjacent buildings.

Middle photo, Sgt. Nancy Weber and Sgt. Shawn Johnson both from Task Force Dragoon, 40th Military Police Company, located on Camp Bondsteel take a moment on their patrol to speak with a boy walking his dog.

Right Photo, 2nd Lt. Sunny Griffith of Task Force Dragoon, 40th Military Police Company, located on Camp Bondsteel makes friends with a young student at the primary school in Trpeza/Terpeze during his patrol.

Going postal

Story and Photos by Sgt. Matt Jackson



People get excited when they receive mail," said Sgt. Luz Salido, a mail and billeting Non-commissioned Officer in the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Infantry Division, here. "It's good for morale."

What's even better than mail? Free mail. If it meets certain criteria under Department of Defense Regulation 4525.6-M, it won't cost a penny to send.

Aside from free shipping for packages up to 70 pounds from one Army Post Office address to another, free mail can be sent to civilian addresses in the

United States simply by writing the word "free" in the upper right-hand corner of the parcel.

However, there are some limitations.

"Free mail is limited ... to letter mail, sound or video recorded communications having characteristics of personal correspondence and addressed to a place within the delivery limits of the United States Postal Service (USPS) or Military Postal Service (MPS)," said Staff Sgt. Kurt Torpey, quoting from the regulation. Torpey is the Technical Inspector for the 925th Adjutant Gen-

eral Detachment, Postal, here.

Defining exactly what the "characteristics of personal correspondence" are has caused some confusion.

"Personal nature is 'Hi Mom, Hi Dad ... I'm doing fine, how are you?'" Torpey said. "We weren't allowing photographs at first. We've cleared that up."

Letters, developed photographs, audio or video tapes, and compact discs or digital video discs with personal messages weighing 13 ounces or less can all be sent as free mail. Gifts are not considered to be of a personal nature.



(Top photo) Spc. Misael A. Alvaraz, a finance clerk for the 925th AG Detachment, Postal, affixes a label to an outgoing package to ensure it gets routed to the correct post office. (Left) Spc. Misael A. Alvaraz helps Sgt. Benjamin D. Rosenberg, S4 Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge for Task Force Dragoon, mail a birthday present for his mother.

So while a compact disc with a personal message to a loved one can be sent without charge, sending that same loved one an album by their favorite band will require a postage fee.

The regulation is difficult to nail down because it is less concerned with the physical content of the mailing than it is with the purpose and intent of the correspondence. It is virtually impossible for postal clerks to determine whether a CD has a personal message or a musical artist on it. The responsibility falls on the mailer to keep within

the spirit of the regulation to ensure that the mailing falls into the category of personal correspondence.

"That's what I want to accentuate here. It has to be of a personal nature," Torpey said. "You can pay the bills using the free mail system. Paying bills is considered personal correspondence, but you can't conduct any kind of commercial business."

Commercial business would be, for example, if a Soldier ran a child-care center back home. Any correspondence related to that business would require a stamp, said Torpey.

Free mail cannot be sent to civilian addresses in other countries. That would fall outside of the "delivery limits of the USPS or MPS," as stated in Regulation 4525.6-M.

Along with saving on postage fees, patrons can save money on various packaging materials.

"We have wrapping material, scissors, tape," said Torpey. "You don't have to buy any of that to wrap your boxes."

The Post Office does not supply padding materials, but it does offer a variety of boxes in which items can be sent for a flat rate. Flat-rate prices vary only according to the volume, not the weight of the box. So although lighter parcels may be less expensive to send without using a flat-rate box, money can

be saved when shipping heavier items.

"You really can't beat the rate on them for the weight on that box," said Staff Sgt. Morris Freelon, station manager at the 925th Adjutant General Company, Postal. "Just don't pack it so full it's busting at the seams!"

Proper packaging and sealing is important when sending packages to and from home. Poorly sealed mail sent over such a long distance has a tendency to break open. In this event, the Military Post Office will re-wrap mail, but it does not open mail on purpose, even to check for illegal items. If a questionable item is received, the person to whom it is addressed will be called to the Post Office and required to open the package in the presence of the Military Police.

In addition to proper packaging, complete military addresses are needed to ensure proper routing of mail.

"Please have your loved one list the full military address," said Torpey. "List the task force. If you're from HHC, put HHC G-3 section. Be very specific."

"Ultimately our goal is to give you the best service possible," said 1st Lt. John R. Kaegi, Detachment Commander for the 925th AG Company, Postal. "We might be sticklers for the regulations but we have to follow the Federal regulations from the United States Postal Service."



Sgt. Luz Salido, Billeting and Mail Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) and Sgt. Heather A. Dillwood, Headquarters Training NCO, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Infantry Division visits with a kindergarten class at the Ramadan School.

Something to tell Mom

Story and Photos by Lynette Hoke

A class of 30 sixth grade students takes their seats waiting for class to resume. The room is illuminated by maps of the world, common mathematical equations and a detailed display of the alphabet. The teacher instructs the students to open their textbooks and complete a worksheet that corresponds with the facts found within the assigned chapter.

Pencils, paper, books, maps, desks, chairs and lights all are an important factor for any scholastic system. Educational supplies are in high demand for most schools in municipalities surrounding Multinational Brigade (East). Some companies have taken a personal interest in the mission to provide a better learning environment for the upcoming generation of Kosovo's society.

"As soon as they said they are going to go on a mission to a school, I jumped at the opportunity and I said that I

wanted to go," said Sgt. Salvador Gomez, Supply Technician for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Infantry Division.

Some personnel recently visited the school of Ramadan, one of the elementary schools on the outskirts of Camp Bondsteel, to provide some necessary supplies and a bit of camaraderie for the Albanian and Serbian children attending.

"Our overall mission is to support them in a way," said 1st Lt. Missy N. Racimo, Company Executive Officer. "To be an ambassador for Kosovo Forces (KFOR) and the United States states, to give support and friendship and to help them to get to know us."

"I think my job is to get them to smile, go out there and play with them and to get them to laugh," said Gomez. "At first they were shy and now that we are there they are more interactive."

One of the ideas behind the missions with helping the schools is to get the kids used to interacting with all types of ethnicities. In the United States, here can easily be five or more types of nationalities in most classrooms.

"A lot of it (the mission) is just to make a bond with the school and help them out," said Sgt. Heather A. Dillwood, Non-commissioned Officer in Charge for HHC Supply, "and get a bond formed with all the different nationalities."

"One of the things we try to let them talk about is the Serbians coming back to the different schools in the fall and we try to relay and emphasize that we are all one," said Racimo.

Beyond being a facilitator to relieve ethnic tension, another focus of the group is the classrooms in the school which are very sparse of learning materials. Even chalk for the chalkboards is



1st Lt. Misty N. Racimo, Headquarters and Headquarters Company Executive Officer, and Spc. Lindsay Ebert, G-2 Personnel, listen to a couple of students in the front row of a general education class they are explaining the translation of a music song the class sang for the visiting Soldiers.

something that teachers have a hard time coming by. With each visit, the personnel try to bring some kind of supplies to help with the schoolhouse.

"I think someone worked for Rand McNally in a previous rotation and got it hooked up so that we could donate these supplies," said Dillwood. "We provided them some supplies such as atlases, maps and workbooks to try and give the children an idea of what the world really looks like."

"Hopefully we will be able to do something for the school, like 6A remodeled a room in the school," said Racimo.

With a helping hand from KFOR, they are able to accommodate and teach more children, said Racimo. The remodeled schoolroom that 6A did makes it a more comfortable environment for them. It gives them one less thing to worry about, it makes it easier for the teachers to teach and they can focus more on the children, Racimo said.

Another goal accomplished with HHC visiting the school frequently is building a solid friendship. Maintaining a relationship with the school is something that is needed for maintaining a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo.

"If they trust us, hopefully the children will be more willing to talk with us if they see a mine, and they will feel more secure with taking us back to it," said Racimo.

"We interact with the kids and we have fun," said Gomez. "After we are done, we hope the kids will go home and tell their parents that they met some nice people, some nice American Soldiers."



Sgt. Salvador S. Gomez, Supply Technician for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, takes a minute to play 'hoops,' with some of the older children at the Ramadan School.

It was a good mission, said Gomez. The children went home knowing that we can do some good stuff for them and make them laugh, he said.

"I don't know if they have that at home or not," Gomez said.

Overall, the mission seems to be

very successful, both for the children, teachers and the Soldiers involved.

"I think it affects all the children in a positive way, it shows that we are here to help them and not do anyone any harm. It kind of gives them a big brother or big sister to play with when they are at school and I think it helps out the teachers as well," said Dillwood.

"The older kids seem to really form a bond with the Soldiers and thrive on the attention and mentorship that the Soldiers offer," said Dillwood. "The younger kids seem to be slightly more intimidated because they are still in that shy stage, but overall, they all get something out of it, the younger ones form a bond but it just takes them a little more time."

"I think all of the children are affected by the presence of U.S. Kosovo Forces," said Gomez. "The little kids are kind of quiet but we make them laugh and the big kids see what we do and we make them laugh too, but it is easier to give them a role model-type."

We emphasize to pay attention in school and get your education.

The mission has its little rewards for all of the personnel involved. For the children it was another right foot in a game of soccer, for the teachers, they are able to relay the needs and struggles of the school and for the Soldiers, they get a first hand look at why KFOR is needed in the area.

"The kids just would not let go, they were running up and giving me high fives and stuff like that," said Gomez. "As we are going away, they were just waving and wanted us to come back...that was really rewarding."

"It's just unbelievable to think that there is a world like this; at home the schools aren't run this way, the classrooms look completely different," said Dillwood. "I go just for the looks on their faces, they are beautiful children, it makes me feel like there is a reason that I am here," said Dillwood.

Editor's Note

For any questions or comments with school visits to Ramadan call Racimo at 781-5434.

40th ID's historical record

By 2nd Lt. Tim Mills

Gen. George S. Patton said, "The Soldier is the Army. No Army is better than its Soldiers. The Soldier is a citizen. In fact, the highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one's country."

Soldiers wearing the 40th Infantry Division (ID) patch have received the call to bear arms for their country in many places. Some of those places have names like Luzon, Panay Island, Los Negros Island, and Heartbreak Ridge.

Soldiers from the 40th ID have been called upon to make sacrifices at each of those places and more. Their sacrifices are represented by a symbol, the Sunburst patch worn on the left shoulder of each and every division Soldier.

"The 40th was organized at Camp Kearney, near San Diego, Calif., Sept. 16, 1917," as stated on the California National Guard (CAARNG) website.

"Many of the Guardsmen who reported for service had experience gained during smaller conflicts," says Maj. Gen. James D. Delk in his book titled, "The Fighting Fortieth." Delk explains "Thousands had served in Federal service along the border with Mexico. Some of the older Guardsmen had seen service in the Spanish American War of 1898 and the Philippine Insurrection of 1899."

In World War I, the 40th ID was activated on July 18, 1917, went overseas on August 3, 1918 and didn't return home until June 30, 1919, according to the CAARNG website. After being re-designated as the 6th Depot Division, their mission was to receive, equip, train and forward replacements to fill the other divisions. After World War I there was an effort to reorganize and restructure the American military.

Authorization for an increase in strength was granted in 1939 and according to Delk, by 1940, World War II was heating up in Europe.

"After a series of hearings in Congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt finally got authorization to mobilize the National Guard. While some units of the division were mobilized in February, most of the 40th Division was inducted on March 3, 1941," said Delk.

The unit was overseas from August 23, 1942 until April 7, 1946, according to the CAARNG website. During this time the 40th ID was involved in campaigns such as the Bismarck Archipelago, Southern Phippines, and Luzon. For these campaigns performed during World War II, the 40th ID was awarded three Distinguished Unit Citations.

Recognition and symbolism combined to establish the historical record of the 40th ID.

On the unit crest of the division, there is a red arrowhead "alluding to the fire-power of the 40th ID and representing the division's assault landing at Luzon in World War II," according to Delk. "The division was proud of their first real combat. They had killed or captured 6,145 Japanese troops on Luzon."

Also on the unit crest is "a blue Torii



Gate representing the Sunburst division's award of the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation," said Delk. It was a result of the 40th ID's call to relieve the 24th ID in January and Feb-



ruary 1952. A tour that lasted until June 30, 1954.

While serving in Korea, the 40th ID participated in major battles at Heartbreak Ridge, Sandbag Castle, and the

Punchbowl. In these campaigns the division suffered 1,180 casualties, including 311 who were killed in action, and 47 who later died from their wounds.

According to Delk, "the 40th Divi-

sion like many other divisions has a distinguished combat record. The entire unit was mobilized for three wars with selected units and individuals called or volunteering for others."

Continued on page 23

Tips on digital photography



With "Kodak moments," available during water-colored sunsets, views along the hillsides and catching unsuspecting battle buddies dancing to the latest bubble gum radio hit, everyone is able to be a photographer. Keeping a handful of suggested tips in mind will turn photos into frameable keepsakes.

Kosovo Forces 6B will be spending a year in Kosovo. Most Soldiers will be taking a lot of pictures to remember and document their time here in the province. A picture is worth a thousands words, but a photo well taken is priceless.

Understanding the following five basic tips will also have a profound impact on your photographs.

1. Hold your camera steady

Camera movement is the most common cause of blurry pictures. Plant your feet firmly on the ground. Steady your upper body by tucking your elbows in close to your sides. And hold your camera firmly against your face.

Now you're ready for the big moment. Just like firing your weapon on the range, breathing is essential. Take a deep breath

and gently squeeze down on the shutter release in one motion. Press gently...if you press too hard on the button, you could jerk the camera downward. Even breathing too hard can cause the camera to move.

If you feel shaky, you may want to use a tripod. Or try stabilizing yourself by leaning against a wall or a tree.

2. Know when to use a flash

Most digital cameras have an auto flash that fires whenever the exposure system determines there's too little light. Since many cameras use this as the default setting, you may be using the flash without knowing it.

Photos lit by auto flash have a flat quality that minimizes shadows. The light from the flash is so fast that you

don't have to worry about your subject moving and blurring the picture during the exposure, even when you're holding the camera with your hands. This is great for some types of photos, such as portraits.

But you may not want the flash to bounce right off your subject. Instead, try bouncing the light off a wall or ceiling and onto your subject. Just make sure your subject isn't too close to the wall, or the result will be a distracting shadow.

Auto-flash photos often have "red-eye." Eliminating red-eye is as simple as choosing a red-eye-reduction setting on your camera (look in the manual for instructions). You can also remove it after the fact with the software that came with your camera, but it's easier to avoid it in

the first place.

3. Use natural light properly

There are times when you should forget about using your automatic flash and instead use available or "natural" light, even in low-light situations.

Sunbeams drifting through a window provide a terrific photo opportunity: a subtle interplay of light and gorgeous colors. But this kind of light will wash out the foreground subject and you'll lose intriguing surface textures. In this instance, you need to turn the flash off and physically support the camera for a long exposure (or your photo will blur from camera movement).

It's easy to turn off auto flash. Check your user's manual for instructions.

4. Don't say cheese, keep it real

Sometimes you want a perfectly posed picture, such as the kids with their grandparents. But you don't need to pose your subjects every time. Part of the beauty of digital photography is that it is much easier to capture life's candid moments. So, forget the cheese and say something to make them laugh. Your subjects will look relaxed and natural, allowing more personality to shine through.

5. Avoid the bull's-eye effect

There is nothing wrong with placing your subject in the exact center of the frame, but there's nothing particularly interesting about it, either. Compositionally speaking, it's actually more pleasing to place your subject off-center than in the middle of the picture.

We're referring to the rule of thirds, a tried-and-true compositional technique. Here's how it works: In your mind's eye, divide up the picture area into vertical and horizontal thirds (like a tic-tac-toe grid).

Rather than placing your subject smack dab in the center of the grid, try placing it on one of the four lines to create a more interesting picture. You might line up a human subject on line A or on line B, for example. Or, in a landscape photo, you could experiment by aligning the mountains or horizon on line 1 or line 2.

Use the rule of thirds to create a picture with a more dramatic sense of scale or proportion. ■

Test your new knowledge

Simply match the photograph's letter with the 5 basic tips of photography and improve your composition of photography.



A



B



C



D



E

Questions

- 1) Hold your camera steady
- 2) Know when to use a flash
- 3) Use natural light
- 4) Don't say cheese
- 5) Avoid the bull's-eye

Answers

1) E, 2) C, 3) D, 4) A, 5) B

Hollowell rocks South town gym



These individual tastes influence the sound of each artist and gives the band its feel. I think it is one of our strengths as a musical group, it helps us connect with a wider range of audiences.

Playing for troops all over the world on a tour through the United Service Organization, Joe Denges (left) and his band play a concert for the Soldiers here at Camp Bondsteel.

The South gym was filled with rock and roll tunes from the 70's, 80's and 90's when the band known as Hollowell visited Camp Bondsteel to perform for the troops on April 5th.

Hollowell is comprised of Matt Hulet on lead guitar; Joe Denges, rhythm guitar and lead vocals; Justin Dike on drums; and Dale Dimapindan playing Bass guitar. The four artists blend their voices and instruments together to form the unique sound of Hollowell.

The band formed two years ago in Calif. although Hulet and Denges have been playing music together for several years.

Three-fourths of Hollowell is from Orange County, and Dimapindan is from Long Beach, rounding out this all-Calif. Group.

This was the first time the band has performed at Camp Bondsteel. The band is currently touring in Kosovo and Bosnia. The schedule is still unfolding, but it appears that Hollowell is headed to Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and other countries to play for the troops there.

The show was part of a Tour sponsored by United States Army Europe Morale Welfare and Rec-

reation (MWR) in association with AKA Productions of California, which books performances through MWR to boost morale.

Hollowell played several mainstream rock songs from chart toppers as Pink Floyd, Tom Petty, Duran Duran, U-2, and Bush.

"We play several styles of rock music. Each style has an influence on us musically as a band," said Hulet.

Even though every band member has his individual music taste, the group pulls together and produces great music through teamwork.

"These individual tastes influence the sound of each artist and gives the band its feel," said Denges.

"I think it is one of our strengths as a musical group, it helps us connect with a wider range of audiences," he said.

Rock and roll was not the only message provided to the troops.

Another way Hollowell connects with their audience is in the spiritual realm.

Before their last set, Denges talked about their home church and what their support means to them.

They attend the Sanctuary services provided by Capo Beach Calvary

Church in Dana Point, Calif.

The U.S. Army and the MWR responded by presenting the band with certificates of appreciation for providing a much needed break and a boost in morale.

The group ended the night by playing several songs of praise and worship. Similar to what they play at their church back home. The music filled the air and touched the hearts of the Soldiers at the gathering.

Band members met with Soldiers after the show and signed autographs, talked, laughed, and handed out compact disks of their new demo.

When asked, what was Denges' favorite track on the disk; he responded "Let me be," the third track on the disk.

"I like the feel of it, the dynamics, and the depth of the lyrics," said Denges.

This inner-searching and depth is reflected in the name of the band, Hollowell. "Hollow", as in an emptying of one's self. The word; "well" as in a water well that contains water. One must empty the old, in order to be filled with the new. It is a continuous process of refinement. ✪

To help build a surge capability, “we need to see if we can’t tap into the heritage communities in the United States,” Chu said. “Ours is an immigrant population. Everyone came from someplace else, many of them recently. We need to recruit them.”

He said about 200 people with expertise in needed languages have already been recruited, and nearly 50 have been deployed. “They are earning rave reviews from commanders,” he said.

“Originally, we saw this as temporary service, for two years or so,” Chu said. “However, a significant fraction (of Soldiers recruited for their language skills) said they want to stay in the Army.”

DoD officials intend to build a database of military and civilian individuals with foreign-language expertise who could be tapped when needed. “For example, if we needed a water-purification expert who also speaks Arabic, we could find him,” Chu said.

In addition to building capacity, Chu said, DoD is working to improve the linguistic and cultural competence of the force. For fiscal 2005, the department has increased Defense Language Institute’s budget from \$103 million to \$153 million. An additional \$45 million has been requested for fiscal 2006, and another \$330 million increase has been programmed for fiscal 2007 to 2010. ■

40th ID continued from page 19

While the 40th ID has left their footprint in many global struggles, California Soldiers have had their share of state emergencies as well.

“The 40th Division has always been headquartered in the most disaster-prone state in the nation,” said Delk. “There have been many disastrous earthquakes, just the most recent being the Northridge Earthquake. There have been innumerable forest fires and floods. And there have been the many riots in prisons, at the docks, and in the cities including the most destructive rioting in our nation’s history. The 40th Division was involved in all of them, with unquestionably the most active peacetime record of any National Guard Division.”

In Delk’s book, the dedication reads, “This history is dedicated to the many thousands of soldiers who wore or wear ‘The Patch’ and most especially, those who never returned.”

The patch you wear is a symbol representing a legacy of Soldiers who have gone before you... as well as those who will follow.

During a stretch of road, the squad members start lengthy conversation amongst themselves that involve ideas and inspirations on how to make the quality of living better for the people they pass. Recycling programs, farming techniques and medical facilities are topics.

Finding their way back up the road to their parked High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), they mounted and found a detour to a hillside for a small break.

The hillside provided a panoramic perspective of the valley below and a birds-eye view to villages miles away. The sunny and clear day made it easy to view the torn and abandoned homes left behind.

The squad made a few comments on other points within the hillside that they should visit and remounted to continue on their patrol.

A part of the patrol consisted of a dismounted walk in the town of Tpeza/Terpeze. As the squad passed a large two-story building, examining the exterior to conclude the purpose of its contents six small children came running yelling “Ushtar (Soldier), Ushtar (Soldier).” The vocal alarm alerted a swarm of their peers that bolted out quickly afterwards to see the spotted target.

The presence of the squad was quickly given the attention of all the children. Trying to detour all the students from running outside, out of class and away from educational learning, the squad went inside the school to say hello to the teachers and students.

The large hallway of the schoolhouse was quickly occupied by the three squad members and two interpreters and a large mass of small, waist-high curious fans. The lack of funding of the schoolhouse was apparent by the need for heat, lights and supplies. The chipped mis-matched bright pastel paint on the walls of most of the classrooms provided a reflector

and bounce for the natural light coming through the large dirty windows.

Looking tired and a bit overwhelmed, the senior teacher introduced himself and provided a small tour of the main hallway of the building. Sgt. Nancy Weber and the female Albanian interpreter went to work asking the girls of the school how they were doing. They followed by asking them questions about their family, favorite Hollywood movies and pop singers.

The six foot five inch tall 2nd Lt. was a show for some of the children.

During a stretch of road, the squad members start lengthy conversation amongst themselves that involve ideas and inspirations on how to make the quality of living better for the people they pass.

The lieutenant finally found a common curiosity with the older students that could read when he removed a small

handful of note cards from his right blouse pocket filled with Albanian-English phrase translations. For most people, cards can help with literacy but enunciation and dialect is easier found with real-time conversation. Some of the girls giggle as the lieutenant stoops down to their level and points to common sayings and phrases written on the card.

After a handful of minutes of saying hello, giving hugs and going into the classroom to look at the current lesson being taught, the squad decided to head out. The children followed at their feet and escorted them to the door.

Thinking in retrospect about the visit at the school, some the squad members thought about the life of the children in the school and how it differs from the life of children of the same age in the United States. Some of the squad thinks about the cultural aspects that are different from what they have experienced.

Finishing their day’s patrol, the five members mount up and head back towards the base. Another patrol is completed, and returning to Camp Bondsteel closes one chapter for these United States KFOR peacekeepers.



PHOTO BY SPC. ALICIA DILL

**Parting
Shots**